

Agenda Item #11.E.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR RONALD W. REAGAN

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

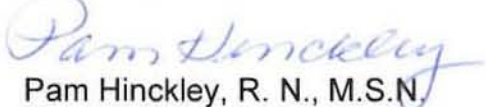
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DATE: August 25, 2011

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Pam Hinckley, R. N., M.S.N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Accreditation (Director: Vickie Lapre', Glendale, Los Angeles County, Private)

North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional accreditation.

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when a program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.."

The following table shows the variance of the program's pass rates from the state average annual pass rates of first time graduates of accredited vocational nursing programs for the past nine (9) quarters. This data substantiates the program's noncompliance with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	38%	-32
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	47%	-25
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	43%	-30
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	43%	-31
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	56%	-19
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	50%	-25
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	54%	-22
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	52%	-25
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	45%	-31

History of Prior Board Actions

- On August 9, 2006, the Board approved North West College, Glendale's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students commencing on September 25, 2006, only.

The Board approved the program curriculum for 1,624 hours, including 664 theory and 960 clinical hours.

The program delayed admitting its first class until August 2007 due to enrollment and faculty recruitment issues. The program did not notify the Board of the delay.

- **On July 9, 2008, a new program director was approved.**
- On November 5, 2008, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period November 5, 2008, through November 4, 2012, and issued a certificate accordingly.

The Executive Officer approved the North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a full-time **replacement** class of 30 students, commencing November 10, 2008 only, with an anticipated graduation date of February 7, 2010.

- **On June 2, 2009, a new program director was approved.**
- **On May 4, 2010, a new program director was approved.**
- On May 17, 2011, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates for the past eight (8) quarters.
- On June 3, 2011, the Executive Officer approved the North-West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program's request, to admit a full-time class of 30 students, on June 6, 2011 to **replace** a class that will graduate on June 5, 2011. The proposed class is

projected to graduate on August 26, 2012, **and**; placed the program on the September 2011 Board agenda for consideration of placement on provisional accreditation. That action was based on the program's low licensure pass rates.

- On August 4, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting the program to submit fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents relevant to the programs plan to improve licensure pass rates that they desire Board members to consider.

Enrollment

Currently, the program requires prior Board approval to admit students into each 60 - week full - time class. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **projected** student enrollment based on **current and proposed** class starts and completions. The table indicates **a maximum enrollment of 30 students** for the period from **August 2007 through June 2011**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
8/07		29	29	29
	11/08 (8/07 class)		-29	$29 - 29 = \mathbf{0}$
11/08		30	30	$0 + 30 = \mathbf{30}$
	2/10 (11/08 class)		-30	$30 - 30 = \mathbf{0}$
3/10		30	20	$0 + 20 = \mathbf{20}$
	6/11 (3/10 class)		-20	$20 - 20 = \mathbf{0}$
6/11		28		$0 + 28 = \mathbf{28}$

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," for the period April 2009 through June 2011, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data						
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*	
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2009	8	3	38%	71%	38%	70%
Jul – Sep 2009	9	5	56%	74%	47%	72%
Oct – Dec 2009	4	1	25%	76%	43%	73%
Jan – Mar 2010	No Candidates Tested			76%	43%	74%
Apr – Jun 2010	3	3	100%	74%	56%	75%
Jul – Sep 2010	15	7	47%	76%	50%	75%
Oct – Dec 2010	6	3	50%	77%	54%	76%
Jan – Mar 2011	1	0	0%	80%	52%	77%
Apr – Jun 2011	No Candidates Tested			71%	45%	76%
*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three-quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.						

Based on the most current data available (April – June 2011), the program's average annual pass rate is 45%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time is 76%. The average annual pass rate for the North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program is 31 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534 (d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor.”

The current number of Board-approved faculty totals twenty-nine (29), including the program director. The director has 100% administrative and no teaching duties. Of the total faculty, twenty-six (26) instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based upon a maximum enrollment of 30 students, two (2) instructors are required for clinical supervision. Therefore, the current number of faculty is adequate for the current enrollment.

Section 2534 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an

adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.”

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives in accordance with Section 2534 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. This information has been verified by the consultant.

Other Considerations

The program currently has nine (9) quarters of low licensure pass rates. During the period April 2009 through June 2011, the program’s licensure pass rates have fluctuated from 38% to 56%. The program had two (2) quarters in which no candidates tested. If those two (2) quarters in which no candidates tested were removed, the overall pass rate still remains 38% to 52% for the remaining seven (7) quarters. The most recent average annual pass rate for the program is 45%.

In an attempt to correct the low licensure pass rates, the director recently changed the admission test, included online practice testing with each term, added a comprehensive test at the end of the program and increased the minimum GPA to 80%. In addition, the program has eliminated exam retakes. The program is offering a \$200 state Board testing fee reimbursement for graduates who take the NCLEX exam within 90 days of their paperwork being sent to the Board. The director states she has been director for one (1) year now and the corrective measures she has employed will result in very good pass rates in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2011 (attachment A).

Based on submitted documents, materials, and the performance of program graduates on the NCLEX-PN® from April 2009 through June 2011, the following violation is identified.

Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

Violation #1: The program’s average annual pass rates have been more than ten (10) percentage points below state average annual pass rates for nine (9) consecutive quarters.

Plan of Correction #1: This violation is **not corrected**. The violation will be corrected when the program’s pass rates improve consistent with regulatory requirements.

Recommendations:

1. Place North West College, Glendale, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from September 9 , 2011, through September

30, 2013, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of non compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations (see Attachment B).

2. Require the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the Board.
3. Require the program to submit follow-up reports in 9 months, but no later than **June 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2013**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.
 - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h. Textbooks.
 - i. Attendance Policy.
 - j. Remediation Policy.
 - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Enrollment.
4. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by September 1, 2013.
5. Require the program to comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526.
6. Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation.
7. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation.
8. Place the program on the September 2013 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

Rationale: The program has graduated three (3) classes to date. The last class graduated on June 5, 2011. These students should test in quarter 3 of

2011. Currently 28 students are enrolled. To date, 46 graduates have taken the licensure examination. Of the 46 that tested, 22 passed and 24 failed. As such, 47.8% passed and 52.2% failed. The programs licensure pass rates have fluctuated from 38% to 56% over nine (9) quarters. The most recent average annual pass rate for the program is 45%.

A new program director was approved by the Board on May 4, 2010. Since that time, the program has instituted several interventions to bring their licensure pass rates up. The results of these interventions, according to the director, should manifest in higher licensure statistics for North West College, Glendale in quarters three (3) and four (4) of this year.

The program has demonstrated that it has sufficient resources to support the current and proposed enrollment. Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly.

Attachment A: Program Correspondence Dated August 17, 2011.

Attachment B: Draft Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.